



Indiana Department of Homeland Security

District Programs Information Bulletin

Date: July 01, 2010

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TO: All District Administrative Coordinators
All District Coordinators
All District Fiscal Agents
All District Planning Council Members
All District Planning Oversight Committee Members
All District Response Task Force Commanders
All Emergency Management Directors

From: Randal A. Collins
District Services Branch Director, Field Division
Indiana Department of Homeland Security

Subject: A Message from IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott on District Planning Councils and District Firefighter Training Councils

Purpose

The following is a letter from IDHS Executive Director Joe Wainscott pertaining to the relationship between District Planning Councils and District Firefighter Training Councils.

Letter

"In an effort to reduce confusion and allay some continuing misinformation, I wanted to share a repeat of some information that was put out to the District Firefighter Training Council Chairs and others last February. The intention of IDHS for the district initiatives that all of us have been working on so hard is to build capabilities and to use the diminishing funds to achieve the maximum benefit. This calls for a high level of cooperation, communication, and collaboration among all involved.

The expansion of the relationship between the District Planning Council (DPC) and the District Firefighter Training Council (DFTC) is one of improving communication, collaboration, coordination, and cooperation. It is essential that all involved in response, training, and recovery sit at the table to best leverage funds and reduce duplicative efforts and conflicts of activities.

The role of the District Fire Training Council is and will continue to be to conduct training needs assessment, develop and submit a budget to IDHS Training Division,

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and develop and implement a district fire training plan. The DFTC is responsible for hiring the District Fire Training Coordinator to manage the activities of the DFTC.

The DPC role is one of coordination and communication, not control of the fire training provided through the DFTC and funded by the state fire training system. Providing training that is needed by the response community will continue to be a function of both the DPC and DFTC. The DPC has no authority to commit or expend funding designated for firefighter training. The DPC has no authority to stop a course of instruction authorized by the Indiana Firefight Training System when conducted within the guidelines of the IFTS. But it is our desire that groups stop operating in their own silo and ensure duplication of effort is not occurring. To make the best use of and leverage funds from all sources to prepare our responders at all levels must be the primary objective of all involved. The funding issues that are now and will be occurring in the coming years require us to become more collaborative and innovative to utilize these precious dollars as effectively as possible.

While I have suggested the District Fire Training Committees might work under the umbrella of the DPC for coordination purposes, I will leave it to those at the district level to determine the best organizational structure to fit your needs. Whether the task is to address day to day fire training needs or the needs of the fire suppression element of the District Task Force or Haz Mat related needs of all responders, the coordination of efforts of the DPC, DPOC, DRTF, and the DFTC are essential.

Cooperation has been defined as “working together agreeably” and collaboration as “working together aggressively.” Please work together aggressively to find and fill the needs in your district. However your district chooses its structure, I simply ask that you work to make the most of what limited funding we have and do the most good with it for our responders.

Thanks, Joe”

Questions

Any questions pertaining to this information bulletin may be submitted to Randal Collins, District Services Branch Director, Rcollins@dhs.in.gov, 317-238-1762.